



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

Somalia – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

January 12, 2007

NOTE: The last fact sheet was dated January 3, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On January 4, the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) participated in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) for Somalia meeting in Nairobi. U.N. and humanitarian agencies concurred that there has been no significant increase in humanitarian needs related to the recent advance of Ethiopian and Transitional Federal Government (TFG) forces in Somalia. Humanitarian response priorities remain largely unchanged from those following the November–December floods. The U.N. has neither issued a Flash Appeal nor a revised Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) due to the conflict to date. USAID continues to respond to humanitarian needs through ongoing emergency programs with ten implementing partners.
- The U.S. Military conducted a single air strike against terrorist targets in southern Somalia on January 7. Somali and Ethiopian forces continue to pursue combatants of the former Council of Islamic Courts (CIC) who fled south towards the Somalia-Kenya border during recent fighting.
- The situation remains tenuous in Mogadishu surrounding the return of TFG President Abdullahi Yusuf to the capital. On January 6 and 7, unidentified gunmen attacked TFG and Ethiopian troops in several incidents in Mogadishu. Additionally, demonstrators in Mogadishu and Beletweyne, Hiran Region, protested against the presence of Ethiopian troops in the country and the TFG disarmament plan for Mogadishu. USAID implementing partners have indicated reports of an increase in informal roadblocks outside Mogadishu as of January 11.
- Humanitarian agencies have expressed concern that the potential for growing lawlessness in the country and the potential return of former warlords and clan rivalries may worsen an already difficult operating environment. The DART is monitoring security conditions and working with USAID partners to assess and mitigate the impact of ongoing insecurity on programs.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

Total FY 2006 and FY 2007 USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....	\$10,679,305
Total FY 2006 and FY 2007 USAID/FFP Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....	\$92,900,000
Total FY 2006 and FY 2007 State/PRM Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....	\$4,070,000
Total FY 2006 and FY 2007 USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Somalia	\$107,649,305

CURRENT SITUATION

Population Displacement

- Most conflict-related displacement remains localized and short-term. The direct impact of recent fighting is minimal to date, with an estimated 40,000 people displaced, according to USAID field staff. The U.N. reports that many people uprooted by recent fighting have already returned and anticipates that most newly displaced will return to places of origin following the end of open hostilities.
- The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is conducting assessment missions in northeast Somalia and eastern Ethiopia following reports of additional displacements. The teams seek to identify the number and humanitarian needs of up to 10,000 newly displaced individuals in Gaalkacyo, Mudug Region. UNHCR is scheduled to distribute emergency relief supplies—provided by USAID to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF)—to the newly displaced in and around Gaalkacyo.

Refugees

- Reports of refugee flows from Somalia into nearby countries remain limited. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported that a limited number of Somalis have crossed into eastern Ethiopia since fighting broke out. USG regional refugee coordinators are seeking further confirmation on the status of the asylum seekers. UNHCR is positioning emergency relief supplies in the area to prepare for possible new arrivals.
- Approximately 400 asylum seekers at Liboi transit center in Kenya were forcibly returned to Somalia as of January 3. Humanitarian agencies received unconfirmed reports of additional involuntary returns of Somali asylum seekers as of January 9. The U.N. is currently in discussion with the Government of Kenya and TFG regarding protection of all non-combatants, particularly women and children, and the ability to seek refuge in Kenya.

- USG-supported UNHCR is prepared to address the needs of up to 50,000 new refugees in Kenya. USAID-funded WFP is preparing for the possibility of additional population displacements following the reopening of the Kenya–Somalia border.

Humanitarian Access

- Access into and within Somalia is hampered by an uncertain security situation, the closure of several airstrips in southern and central Somalia, and official closure of the Kenya border on January 3. The U.N. Common Air Service (UNCAS) has cancelled the majority of passenger and cargo flights into Somalia with the exception of limited service to Waajid, Bakool Region, according to WFP. The DART is meeting with partner organizations to determine the impact of the border closure on transport of relief supplies and personnel and the ability to provide humanitarian support to flood and conflict-affected Somalis.

Emergency Operations

- USAID partners continue to provide emergency humanitarian relief to vulnerable communities throughout Somalia. However, the fluid security situation, constrained humanitarian access inside the country, and restricted cross-border movement has delayed some program activities.
- On January 12, USAID-funded WFP began distributing 139 metric tons of emergency food aid to approximately 6,000 beneficiaries in and around Dhoblei, Lower Juba Region. The distribution targets both individuals temporarily uprooted from conflict as well as residents of Dhoblei and surrounding towns.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- USAID/OFDA supports eight implementing partners to carry out emergency humanitarian interventions in Somalia, including health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene, agriculture, and food security programs benefiting more than 2 million people. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.3 million in response to the recent flooding in south and central Somalia, including nearly \$1.1 million to UNICEF to support UNCAS, as well as health and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs. In response to the outbreak of hostilities, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.5 million to UNICEF to enhance and expand emergency programs.
- To date in FY 2007, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has provided \$11.5 million to WFP for nearly 18 MT of food assistance for vulnerable Somali populations. USAID/FFP is also providing food assistance to affected communities in southern and central regions through ongoing activities from FY 2006 countrywide programs. In FY 2006, USAID/FFP provided more than 120,000 metric tons of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$81.4 million, to WFP and CARE.
- State/PRM is assisting Somali refugees in Kenya and relief efforts in Somalia through ongoing FY 2006 refugee programs. In FY 2006, State/PRM provided nearly \$15 million in earmarked funding and plans to provide an additional \$3,575,000 from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund to UNHCR and other international organizations and NGOs for assistance to Somali refugees in Kenya and Ethiopia, as well as relief efforts inside Somalia.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2007			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
FAO	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$850,000
Matrix	12 Zodiac Boats and Motors	Flood-affected Areas	\$243,523
UNICEF	U.N. Common Air Service	Countrywide	\$878,470
UNICEF*	Rapid Response Fund	Flood-affected Areas	\$250,000
UNICEF	Health, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
USAID	Program support costs	Countrywide	\$38,900
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,760,893
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	17,920 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$11,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$11,500,000
FY 2006			
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$6,918,412
TOTAL USAID/FFP²			\$81,400,000

TOTAL STATE/PRM	\$4,070,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2006	\$88,318,412
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2006	\$92,388,412

* Through a standing agreement with UNICEF, USAID/OFDA approved the use of \$250,000 in rapid response funds to Somalia.

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of January 12, 2007.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for emergency response efforts in Somalia can be found at www.interaction.org. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Somalia may be available at www.reliefweb.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int